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Multnomah County Bicycle and Pedestrian Citizen Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, September 13, 2017

Board Room, Multnomah Building, 501 SE Hawthorne Blvd, Portland, OR

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Martha Berndt
Carolyn Briggs
Michael Dehner
Ryan Farncomb
Joel Huffman
Briana Orr
Gary Purvine
Rory Renfro
Michael Rubenstein
Susan Watt
Jerry Zelada

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Matthew Barney
Jim Couch
Art Graves
Jeff Grover
Andrew Holtz
Talia Jacobson
Greg Olson

STAFF: Kate McQuillan (Transportation Planner), Jon Henrichsen

Guest: Rithy Khut (Portland Bicycle Advisory Committee)

1. Welcome and Introductions

The meeting was called to order at 6:30pm. There was a quorum of members present.

2. Approve July 2017 Meeting Minutes

The July 2017 Meeting Minutes were not available for approval.

3. Public Comment

AJ Zelada shared the work of the "No More Freeways PDX" coalition that is opposing the I-5 Rose Quarter project that the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) has begun to plan. The group is targeting the Central City Plan through the City of Portland, which is currently going through the local adoption process. The intent is to make sure the project does not end up in the City's Transportation System Plan which would make it potentially ineligible for funding. He mentioned that, if built, the project could have some significant impacts to the nearby Broadway Bridge.

Rithy Khut, a co-chair to the City's Bike Advisory Committee, shared that there will be a large-scaled paving project on SW1st Avenue beginning mid-September that would create a major detour for bikes down to Natio Parkway. Rithy also shared that his Committee has asked the City and TriMet to consider a bus only lane on the Hawthorne Bridge. He anticipates approaching the County in which case he may bring this to the Bike and Ped CAC.

Martha Berndt requested a status update on a request from months prior about installing a 3-way stop at two Sauvie Island locations. These improvements were identified in the County's Transportation System Plan which was adopted last year.

4. Staff Report

Kate shared that the Transportation Division is still wrapping up the ADA Transition Plan which was brought to the Committee for feedback late last year. Also, the Board of County Commissioners granted the Division a one-time only ask for \$100,000 from the General Fund for pedestrian safety improvements. Planning staff are currently running through scenarios the best use of the funds. Lastly, Kate shared that funding the Willamette River Bridges Bike/Ped Feasibility Study will be a priority next year after current construction projects wrap up.

5. Chair Report

Rory had no additional items to share.

6. BPCAC Member Stories

Thank you Gary Purvine for sharing your story this month.

7. Earthquake Ready Burnside Bridge, SRG Meeting Report Back

This agenda item was postponed for the October 2017 meeting.

8. Broadway Bridge Discussion

Jon Henrichsen, Engineering Manager for the County's Bridges program, shared a series of possible improvements to the west end of the Broadway Bridge where County staff have recorded a number of serious crashes over the years of vehicles turning left from the Lovejoy on-ramp onto the Bridge- but ending up in the sidewalk/bike path. Jon emphasized that all the scenarios proposed this evening have not been vetted with the City or even cross-referenced with AASHTO/MUTCD standards, and that these are very early mock-ups of potential solutions.

The two main objectives Jon noted were to (1) stop cars from running into the railing that separates the outer vehicle lane and the shared sidewalk, and (2) prevent cars from seriously injuring pedestrians that may be in the shared sidewalk. He noted that crashes overwhelmingly are occurring at night time, and that street car tracks can potentially get slippery when wet which would not help drifting cars.

Jon shared his brainstorm of ideas thus far, ranging from adding delineators along shared sidewalk curb with additional reflective signage, moving the curb ramp slightly to the SW (closer down to NW Broadway ramp), adding or enhancing the barrier between the vehicle lane and shared sidewalk, and painting the bike lane green through the whole intersection.

Comments from the Committee:

- BPCAC members were split about the option to move the curb ramp slightly to the SW. The shift would create a tighter 90-degree turn that cyclists would have to navigate to cross the bridge.
- Members were also split about painting the entire bike lane through the intersection. The green color could be difficult for all users to see when dark and raining.
- Generally the Committee agreed that the priority in these designs is to protect any bicyclist or pedestrian that would be on the shared sidewalk in the event of a crash.
- The Committee suggested extending the current barrier, understanding that the barrier would have to be lightweight and not cause too much deflection. (Perhaps cable?)
- The Committee asked if there is sufficient space to have two parallel jersey barriers between the vehicle lane and the shared sidewalk?

Jon agreed to come back to the BPCAC before moving forward with a design decision.

9. Project Updates Group Share

There were not additional project updates.

Meeting Adjourned

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45pm.

Meeting minutes written and submitted by:

Kate McQuillan

The next BPCAC meeting is scheduled for: Wednesday, October 11, 2017